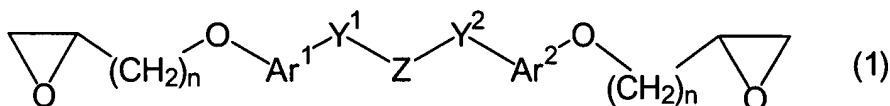


Amendments to the Claims

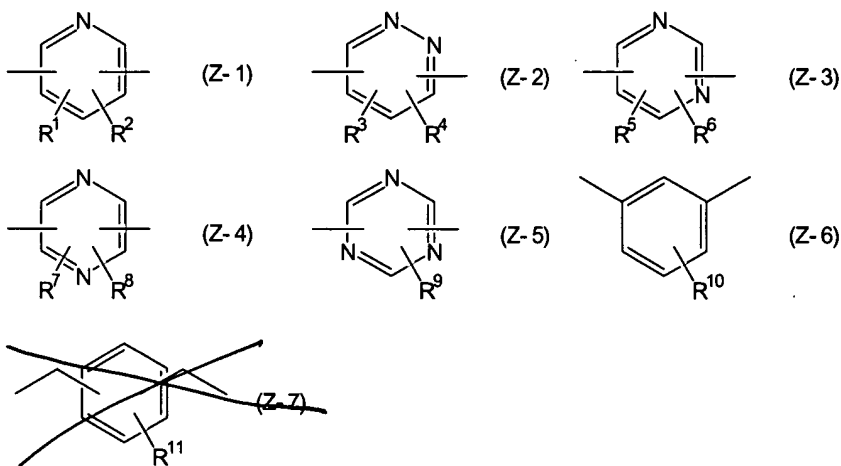
1. (Currently amended) An epoxy compound of formula (1):



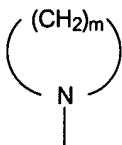
wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 9,

the $-(CH_2)_n-$ group may have inserted $-O-$, or $-N(R')$ -, between the methylene groups, wherein R' represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-18} alkyl group,

Z represents any one of divalent groups of the following general formulas (Z-1) to ~~(Z-7)~~: (Z-6):

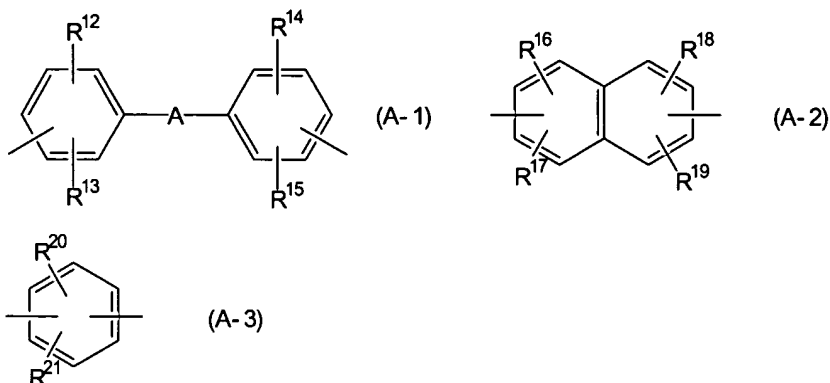


wherein $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}$ and R^{11} ~~R^9 and R^{10}~~ are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-18} alkyl group, an amino group substituted with one or two C_{1-18} alkyl groups, or a cyclic amino group of the following formula:

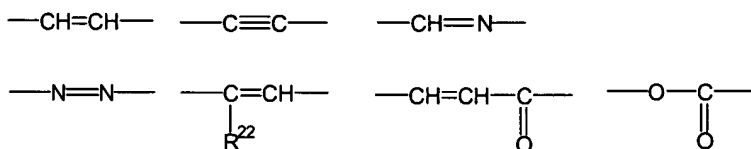


wherein m represents an integer of 4 to 12, and one methylene group or two or more not neighboring methylene groups of the C_{1-18} alkyl group or groups as defined in connection with $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}$ or R^{11} , ~~and~~ R^9 or R^{10} , and of the cyclic amino group, may be replaced with $-O-$, $-NH-$, $-N(R'')$ - or $-S-$, wherein R'' represents a C_{1-18} alkyl group,

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are the same or different and represent any one of groups of the following formulas (A-1) to (A-3):



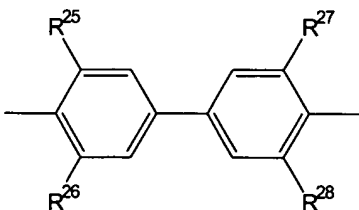
wherein A represents a single bond or any one group selected from the group consisting of:



wherein R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} , R^{21} and R^{22} are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_{1-18} alkyl group, a C_{1-8} alkoxy group, a cyano group, or a nitro group,

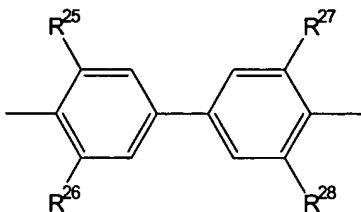
Y^1 and Y^2 are the same or different and represent a single bond, -O-, -S-, or - $\text{Si}(\text{R}^{23})(\text{R}^{24})$ -, wherein R^{23} and R^{24} are the same or different and represent independently a lower alkyl group or a phenyl group.

2. (Original) The epoxy compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar^1 and Ar^2 in formula (1) are the same or different and represent independently a group of the following formula:



wherein R^{25} , R^{26} , R^{27} and R^{28} are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

3. (Original) The epoxy compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar¹ and Ar² in formula (1) represent the same group of the following formula:



wherein R²⁵, R²⁶, R²⁷ and R²⁸ are the same or different and represent independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

4. (Currently amended) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 and a curing agent.

5. (Original) The epoxy composition according to claim 4, wherein the curing agent is an amine-type curing agent or a phenol type curing agent.

6. (Currently amended) A cured epoxy resin product obtained by curing the epoxy composition as defined in claim 4 ~~or 5~~.

7. (Currently amended) A prepreg obtained by impregnating or coating a substrate with the epoxy composition of claim 4 ~~or 5~~ and then semi-curing the epoxy composition.

8. (New) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 2 and a curing agent.

9. (New) An epoxy composition, which comprises the epoxy compound as defined in claim 3 and a curing agent.

10. (New) A cured epoxy resin product obtained by curing the epoxy composition as defined in claim 5.

11. (New) A prepreg obtained by impregnating or coating a substrate with the epoxy composition of claim 5 and then semi-curing the epoxy composition.